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Sustainable development

Entrepreneurship for development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

By its resolution 69/210 on entrepreneurship for development, adopted on 19 December 2014, the General Assembly recognized the important contribution entrepreneurship makes to sustainable development by creating jobs and driving economic growth and innovation, improving social conditions and addressing environmental challenges. The Secretary-General was requested to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the progress made in implementing the resolution.

The present report was prepared by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, to review the progress made on the promotion of entrepreneurship over the last two years. It identifies best practices and measures taken in support of entrepreneurship at the national, regional and international levels, and considers the role of entrepreneurship in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also covers the need for comprehensive and comparable data to monitor progress in the implementation of policies and in the development of indicators to evaluate the success of entrepreneurship policies.

The report illustrates the changing scenario for entrepreneurship promotion brought about by the 2030 Agenda, and reflects on the relationship between entrepreneurship and the Sustainable Development Goals. Section I presents the new landscape of the 2030 Agenda, and section II reports on the implementation of resolution 69/210 from a policy perspective and presents best practices in the implementation of entrepreneurship policies. Section III reviews the need to monitor progress and evaluate the contribution of entrepreneurship policies to the attainment of the Goals. Conclusions and recommendations are set out in section IV, highlighting the need for a holistic approach in the implementation of entrepreneurship policies and for an active role of all local stakeholders, including Governments, civil society and the private sector.

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I. The new landscape of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development

1. The adoption by the General Assembly, in its resolution 70/1, of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals represents a call to action for Governments and other stakeholders around the world, including recognition of the contribution of entrepreneurship to the achievement of the Goals Governments and their partners, including business and international development agencies, are reformulating and aligning their policies, programmes and services to the Goals. The private sector is increasingly considered a key stakeholder and a critical actor in their implementation and success. In particular, Goal 17 provides for the revitalization of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development and presents a significant opportunity for the development community to engage with non-State actors, including the private sector.

A. Entrepreneurship and the Sustainable Development Goals

2. The Sustainable Development Goals explicitly address entrepreneurship in the Goals that concern ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all (Goal 4) and promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (Goal 8).

3. Those Goals provide clear direction for entrepreneurs and the private sector in general to become more engaged in promoting inclusiveness and sustainable development. Entrepreneurship is also connected to several other Goals and targets.

4. The links between entrepreneurship and the Goals are set out below in four thematic clusters.

Economic growth, diversification, decent and productive employment

5. Entrepreneurship contributes to economic growth and diversification. It drives structural transformation and industrialization leading to inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic development.[1] As entrepreneurs start and grow their firms, they transform the economy and drive broader outcomes contributing to the global sustainable development agenda. Goal 8 describes the need for promoting sustainable economic growth. It refers to the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all. The goal includes a call for policies promoting job creation and full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value by 2030 (target 8.5).

6. Goal 9 refers to building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation. Industrialization policies will significantly raise the industry share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries

[1] United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), "Industrial development report 2013: sustaining employment growth — the role of manufacturing and structural change, overview" (Vienna, 2013). Available from www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media/Research_and_Statistics/UNIDO_IDR_2013_English_overview.pdf.

(target 9.2), and increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit and their integration into value chains and markets (target 9.3). All of these issues have direct links to entrepreneurship and the need for integrated entrepreneurship policies.

7. Within the Goals, the global development agenda aims for at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries and the achievement of higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation. Governments are encouraged to establish development-oriented policies to support productive activities, entrepreneurship creativity and innovation, including the formalization and growth of informal enterprises and improved access to financial services.

Inclusion, equality and agricultural productivity

8. The importance of inclusion is infused throughout the global agenda. Goal 2 promotes doubling the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers by 2030, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers. Goal 4 refers to inclusive and equitable quality education and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all, including increases in the number of young people and adults with relevant technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship. Goal 10 seeks to reduce inequality within and among countries by improving the incomes of the bottom 40 per cent of the population and empowering and promoting social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. Goal 16 promotes peaceful and inclusive societies through access to justice for all and the building of effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Targeting entrepreneurship promotion efforts among the vulnerable and often excluded social groups will significantly contribute to achieving the global sustainable development agenda.

9. While women's empowerment is contained within the Sustainable Development Goal drive for economic and financial inclusion, specific measures have been designed. Goal 5 focuses on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, which includes equal rights to economic resources, as well as ownership and control of land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources. Goal 2 seeks to end hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition through, inter alia, doubling the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers by 2030. It specifically identifies women as a key target group. Thus, support for women's entrepreneurship is an important strategy for achieving the Goals and targets.

Environmental sustainability

10. Goal 7 deals with access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. It includes targets to substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix and double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.[2] The promotion of sustainable consumption and production

[2] The Sustainable Development Goals acknowledge the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822) as the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

patterns (Goal 12) seeks to achieve environmental sustainability through waste prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse. It encourages businesses to adopt sustainable practices, while integrating sustainability information into their reporting cycle.

11. Entrepreneurs can introduce new climate change mitigation technologies and processes to the market and influence society's consumption patterns. The Goals also include the development of specific energy-related sectors, including tourism and the green economy. By encouraging entrepreneurs to seize business opportunities in the production and provision of clean and environmental products and services, entrepreneurship policy can help Governments fulfil their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Private sector engagement and partnerships

12. The Goals have opened up the opportunity for the private sector to become more actively engaged in development owing to the significant financial and managerial resources business can bring to the development arena, as well as its experience in market development. Goal 17 provides for the revitalization of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, recognizing that complex problems require integrated responses. This presents new challenges to Governments, which must consider wide-ranging reforms for private sector engagement. In *UNCTAD: Investing in Sustainable Development Goals — Action Plan for Private Investment in SDGs*,[3] the organization calls for a big push for private investment and proposes six broad action packages. It calls for new forms of partnership for the development of innovative business models.

B. Emerging models of social entrepreneurship

13. In implementing the 2030 Agenda, policymakers are devising mechanisms for stakeholders to collaborate in sustained economic and industrial growth, job creation and progress towards a socially inclusive and environmentally sound manner.

14. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) supports inclusive and sustainable industrial development approaches. Only those economies with the ability to constantly generate new activities can structurally transform and industrialize to achieve sustainable job creation and increased prosperity. UNIDO has also incorporated the dimension of social equity, extending technical assistance and guidance to developing countries to ensure their efforts are sustainable and inclusive.

15. The private sector is increasingly engaged in the creation of shared value, connecting social and economic progress. For example, social entrepreneurship is receiving increasing attention because of its potential to address sustainable development challenges by reducing inequalities and enhancing social cohesion. Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have

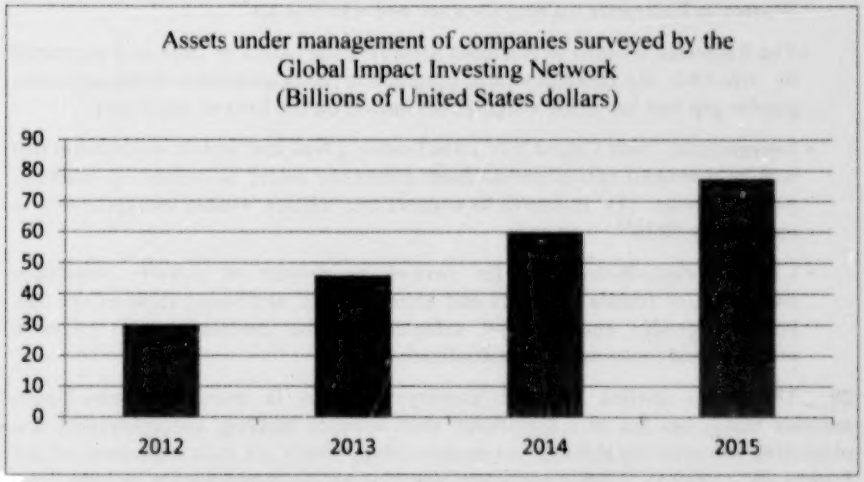
[3] United Nations publication, UNCTAD/OSG/2015/3. Available from http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/osg2015d3_en.pdf.

embraced the concept of social entrepreneurship as a means of engaging the public and private sectors and civil society in addressing emerging social challenges.[4]

16. There is a growing drive for the development of a social and solidarity economy, which includes cooperatives and social enterprises.[5] It recognizes the role of collective action and active citizenship in integrated economic, social and political empowerment of disadvantaged or fragile groups.[6]

17. Significant growth has occurred in the use of private funds for impact investing, which is defined by the Global Impact Investing Network as investments made into companies, organizations and funds with the intention to generate social and environmental impact alongside a financial return. Impact investing is becoming a financial market in its own right.[7] The Network reports indicate a steady growth of this market and increased sophistication, such as the use of standards for impact measurement, the number of intermediaries and the number of investing opportunities (see figure I). ImpactBase is a searchable, online database of impact investment funds and products designed for impact investors.[8]

Figure I
The rise of impact investment funding



Source: A. Mudaliar, H. Schiff and R. Bass, *2016 Annual Impact Investment Survey* (New York, Global Impact Investing Network, JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Department for International Development, United Kingdom).

[4] Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), "ASEAN encourages social entrepreneurship in the region", 30 October 2014, available from http://asean.org/asean-encourages-social-entrepreneurship-in-the-region.

[5] United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social Solidarity Economy, "Social and solidarity economy and the challenge of sustainable development: a position paper by the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy" (Geneva, 2014).

[6] Peter Utting, "Realizing the 2030 development agenda through social and solidarity economy", 2015.

[7] See https://thegiin.org/.

[8] See www.impactbase.org.

C. Supporting socially disadvantaged groups, women and youth

18. Inclusive entrepreneurship policies and programmes are a key element of the sustainable development agenda which may include initiatives addressing education, training and access to finance and market information. Many institutions provide socially disadvantaged groups with business knowledge, information and advice through mentoring and access to networks, ensuring that these groups have the necessary support to engage effectively in business activities.[9]

19. Increasing attention is also required to address the needs of special target groups through dedicated entrepreneurship strategies, such as entrepreneurship strategies and opportunities for women and youth. Women run between a third and a quarter of all enterprises worldwide and represent 40 per cent of the global labour force.[10] Self-employment is a major source of income for many women in developing countries. Initiatives aimed at promoting women's entrepreneurship include the following:

- International Labour Organization (ILO) Women's Entrepreneurship Development Programme: entrepreneurship training and follow-up support, combining regular business management training with gender-specific curricula through the Gender + Entrepreneurship Together (GET) Ahead for Women in Enterprise training package and resource kit[11]
- The Empretec Women in Business Awards: established in 2008 and supported by UNCTAD, the biennial awards programme raises awareness of the economic gender gap and has made a significant impact on the lives of recipients[12]
- International Trade Centre (ITC) SheTrades: a web and mobile application that will help women entrepreneurs from across the world to connect to markets; part of a wider ITC initiative to connect one million women entrepreneurs to markets by 2020[13]
- UNIDO: capacity-building for women as drivers of poverty reduction, promotion of female investors and entrepreneurs, and recognition of the link between gender equality and safeguarding the environment to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization

20. The steady decline in youth employment rates in many European Union member States has led to a significant shift towards tackling unemployment and promoting job creation through entrepreneurship, which are core objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.[14] Other initiatives targeting young entrepreneurs include:

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[9] See UNCTAD, "2016 Empretec Women in Business Awards", held in Nairobi on 21 July 2016.

[10] See World Bank, Women, business and the law database. Available from http://wbl.worldbank.org.

[11] Gender-sensitive training and support services empowering women to start and run their own businesses, offered in over 25 countries. Available from www.ilo.org/wed.

[12] For the fifth edition of the Empretec Women in Business Awards in 2016, UNCTAD received more than 50 nominations from 23 countries.

[13] See www.intracen.org.

[14] European Commission, "Communication from the Commission: Europe 2020 — a strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth", available from http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm.

- UNCTAD, in collaboration with the Commonwealth, developed the "Policy guide on youth entrepreneurship" (UNCTAD/DIAE/ED/2015/1) to support policymakers in designing effective youth entrepreneurship strategies
- ILO, in consultation with Governments, will coordinate the Global Initiative for Decent Jobs for Youth (2016) to coordinate employment and economic policies for job growth and social inclusion and to protect labour rights to ensure that young people receive equal treatment[15]
- The first UNDP Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace (Youth-GPS | 2016-2020) is a five-year, 35 million dollar global programme on youth empowerment, designed to sharpen the organization's response to the challenges young people face worldwide and boost the implementation of the UNDP Youth Strategy 2014-2017
- Child and Youth Finance International calls for better integration of financial inclusion, financial capabilities, entrepreneurial competencies and promotion of economic citizenship, while ensuring teachers are empowered and equipped with the skills and resources they need[16]
- The European Union emphasizes the role of entrepreneurship in its youth employment package, which includes the youth guarantee, established in 2013, to ensure greater availability of start-up support services for young people. Many of the national youth guarantee implementation plans presented by member States include start-up support incentives for young entrepreneurs[17]
- The ITC trade accelerator offers a range of services to facilitate trade by youth-owned start-ups, connecting young entrepreneurs to international markets.

21. Among the main initiatives aimed at providing targeted assistance to socially disadvantaged groups are the following:

- The ILO "Start and improve your business" training packages have been provided to refugees and local marginalized populations, covering 10,000 men and women during the period 2015-2016
- UNCTAD introduced its Empretec methodology for people with low levels of literacy within its joint UNDP project in Ethiopia under the joint entrepreneurship development programme[18]

[15] This initiative will make full use of the expertise of participating United Nations entities and other partners. See http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ed_emp_msu/documents/publication/wcms_450121.pdf.

[16] Child and Youth Finance International, "Economic citizenship education", CYFI Landscape Series (June 2016). Available from http://www.childfinanceinternational.org/resources/meetings/summit2016/presentations/5-ece-landscape-series.pdf.

[17] Verónica Escudero and Elva López Mourelo, "The youth guarantee programme in Europe: features implementation and challenges", Research Department Working Paper, No. 4 (International Labour Organization (ILO), 2015).

[18] The training reinforces behavioural competencies in low literate micro-entrepreneurs and helps them to identify opportunities; training is delivered in Ethiopia's three most widely spoken languages.

- The UNCTAD Business Schools for Impact project encourages private sector involvement in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by promoting a shift in corporate strategies taught in business schools[19]
- The UNDP Growing Inclusive Markets initiative seeks to understand, enable and inspire the development of more inclusive business models around the globe
- The ILO Start and Improve Your Green Construction Business training programme is designed to develop an environmentally sustainable construction business. It applies UNCTAD environmental behavioural competencies to foster entrepreneurs' soft skills in green construction

II. Best practices in the implementation of entrepreneurship policies

22. Section II deals with the implementation of General Assembly resolution 69/210 from a policy perspective. It is structured according to the pillars of the UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework.[20]

A. Formulating a national entrepreneurship strategy

23. During the period 2013-2015, a significant number of countries designed and adopted national policy frameworks for entrepreneurship, some with the support of international organizations, including Brazil, Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, the Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Panama, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

24. The African Union is developing a strategy to promote entrepreneurship and industrial development. Its strategy and work programme (2016-2020) on small and medium-sized enterprise promotion and development aim to create employment and promote intraregional and intra-African trade by integrating African micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises into regional and global value chains, reducing poverty and fostering social inclusion.[21]

25. In Central America, the regional Foundation to Promote the Competitiveness of Micro and Small Enterprise in Central America (CENPROMYPE) and the Central American Integration System (SICA) through their SICA Emprende strategy have set a shared vision identifying entrepreneurship as a vital component of growth. It focuses on building national ecosystems, while engaging and coordinating all regional stakeholders.

26. In several African and Latin American countries, UNCTAD implemented the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework with some variations across countries (see box). In most cases, national Governments initiated a consultation on entrepreneurship through national forums, regional seminars, benchmarking exercises and review mechanisms engaging stakeholders. The participatory dialogue between public and private sector stakeholders built trust and defined common goals.

[19] See http://business-schools-for-impact.org/about.

[20] United Nations, "Entrepreneurship policy framework and implementation guidance" (UNCTAD/DIAE/ED/2012/1). Available from http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/diaeed2012d1_en.pdf.

[21] See http://au.int/en/summit/26.

Good practices and lessons learned from implementation of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Entrepreneurship Policy Framework

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development collaborates with policymakers through a network of Empretec centres to support the implementation of the Entrepreneurship Policy Framework. A number of good practices have been identified through this engagement, as set out below.

Identify a lead agency to guide the national entrepreneurship policy

An entity within or outside of Government is needed to initiate and define the policy process. In Ecuador, the Alliance for Entrepreneurship and Innovation prioritized policy initiatives through broad consultations and provided leadership and coordination, including the piloting, monitoring and evaluation of new initiatives (see http://aei.ec).

Establish a structured approach to define and engage stakeholders in the policy development process

UNCTAD assisted the Government of Panama in the stakeholder consultations for the formulation of a five-year plan (2015-2019) for the development of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurship. The plan encourages formalization, decent work, access to credit and entrepreneurial education.

Engage in a participatory approach

A diverse range of actors representing a variety of sectors, interest groups and levels of government should be engaged in policy formulation processes. At a stakeholders workshop convened by UNCTAD, the Gambia Export and Investment Promotion Agency and the Ministry of Trade, Industry, Regional Integration and Employment of the Gambia, Abdou Jobe, the Minister of Trade, highlighted the importance of the quality of stakeholders' participation, which he said would determine the quality of the policy.[a]

Build action plans

In the Dominican Republic, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce established five working groups on small- and medium-sized enterprises to formulate a national entrepreneurship action plan. This included the creation of a public-private sector alliance, the design of a communication campaign, a study to integrate entrepreneurship and small- and medium-sized enterprise issues into the Labour Law and financial mechanisms to reduce the risks of co-investment.

Source: Note by the UNCTAD secretariat on promoting entrepreneurship for development (TD/B/C.II/29).

[a] Opening remarks at entrepreneurship policy framework workshop for the Gambia, held in Banjul in February 2016.

27. As national markets become increasingly integrated into the global economy, the significance of the local context is growing. Greater attention is given to the role

of subnational government authorities and, in particular, to urban economies and city governance.[22]

28. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (see resolution 69/313, annex) recognized the need for value addition by developing countries and for a deeper integration of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises into regional and global value chains. In its resolution 69/15, the General Assembly endorsed the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway", calling for the fostering of entrepreneurship and innovation and the creation of local decent jobs through private and public projects. The Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014 -2024 calls for the participation of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in international trade through the adoption and implementation of sound domestic policies (see resolution 69/137, annex II). The Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (see A/CONF.219/7, chaps. I and II) identify the promotion of women and youth entrepreneurship as a means to make better use of untapped economic potential.

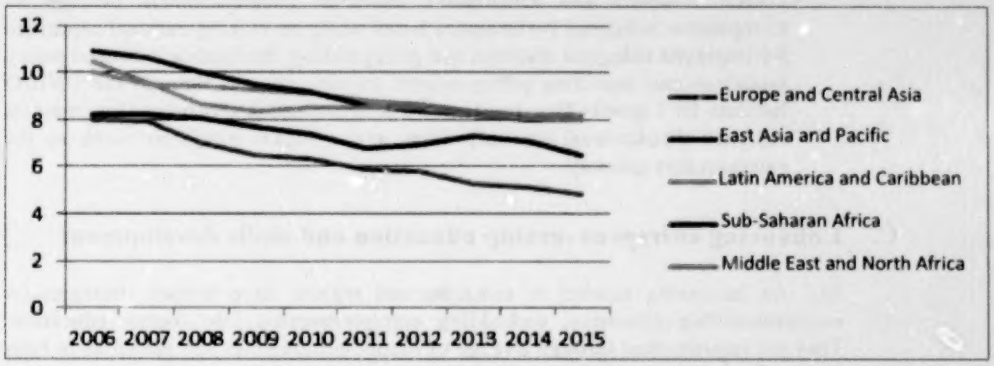
B. Improving the regulatory framework

29. Governments play a key role in creating an enabling regulatory environment to unleash the potential of entrepreneurship. By reforming their policies, laws and regulations, Governments ensure that markets and entrepreneurial activity are not stifled by an unstable policy environment, excessive regulation and taxation, unfair competition or corruption.

30. Business registration has been simplified around the world in the last decade. The number of days and procedures needed to start a business has decreased, as shown in figure II. However, continuing efforts are needed to streamline and simplify other administrative procedures, such as the time required to file taxes.

[22] See www.doingbusiness.org/subnational.

Figure II
Number of procedures needed to start a business



Source: World Bank Data (http://data.worldbank.org).

31. United Nations agencies are supporting efforts to formalize business practices. Informality makes it difficult to collect taxes and limits economic growth.

32. The Global Enterprise Registration portal (http://GER.co) was launched in October 2014 as a joint initiative of UNCTAD, the Kauffman Foundation's Global Entrepreneurship Network and the Department of State of the United States of America. It aims to simplify administrative processes around the world, starting with business registration. In 2015, 28 countries adopted single window and e-registration procedures, while 126 countries hosted information portals. Through the "Go Green by 2019" campaign, governments are asked to put all administrative processes online and make them clear and simple by 2019.

33. The World Bank's Global Indicators of Regulatory Governance database highlights the importance of good quality and well-designed regulations. Greater transparency during the rulemaking process and stronger consultation practices are associated with greater regulatory quality and efficiency.

34. Other initiatives include:

- The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) helps to reduce the legal obstacles encountered by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in developing economies and facilitates small- and medium-sized enterprise participation in public procurement through commercial arbitration and conciliation mechanisms (see A/68/17, para. 321).
- The ILO tool, "Enabling Environment for Sustainable Enterprises",[23] provides evidence-based recommendations on how to improve the business environment and has been applied in some 30 developing economies since 2011. In Honduras, the Government eliminated the mandatory use of notarial services when registering a new enterprise, resulting in a yearly reduction of

[23] Advisory services on how to assess the environment in which businesses operate, as well as to formulate, implement and monitor reform proposals, 15 country assessments in the last 2 years, available from www.ilo.org/eese.

$5 million in registration costs and encouraging several thousand informal businesses to formalize.

- UNIDO assesses and benchmarks industrial competitiveness through its Competitive Industrial Performance index while developing national capacities for improved industrial statistics and policymaking, facilitating industrial policy processes and providing policy-related training courses through the UNIDO Institute for Capacity Development.[24] The organization also helps Governments establish district-level one-stop-shops and e-market platforms, such as the entrepreneurs gateway.

C. Enhancing entrepreneurship education and skills development

35. An increasing number of countries and regions have drafted strategies on entrepreneurship education, embedding entrepreneurship into formal education. They are implemented through a range of funded programmes and activities in both informal and formal education contexts, for example:

- All secondary school students in Rwanda are now required to take a course in entrepreneurship. The courses include scripted learning activities, skills labs and student business clubs where students work in teams to start and run school-based businesses.[25]
- In Panama the national council for entrepreneurship was established in 2015 to guide development of national curricula.
- A new innovation and entrepreneurship centre at the University of Jordan provides pre-incubator facilities along with mentorship, financial resources and assistance in securing patents.
- UNIDO and other agencies are improving the flow of information on current and future private sector skills needs to assist in the design of technical and vocational education and training curricula that better respond to market needs. Recent examples include programmes developed in Tunisia and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- The European Commission and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) are collaborating to provide guidance on teaching entrepreneurship. They have recommended new, creative teaching methods in primary and secondary schools and a focus on entrepreneurship as a career choice.

36. Increasingly, schools and universities around the world are introducing entrepreneurship education in the form of individual courses and classes. They can take different forms and can be offered either by the institution or by external providers. Character development and mind-set development have been embedded as part of some education systems.[26] Education curricula are increasingly being

[24] See www.unido.org/what-we-do/cross-cutting-services/industrial-policy-advice-research-and-statistics.html.

[25] See www.experienceeducate.org/all-blog/2016/3/31/educate-launches-in-rwanda.

[26] David Scott Yeager and Carol S. Dweck, "Mindsets that promote resilience: when students believe that personal characteristics can be developed", *Educational Psychologist*, vol. 47, No. 4 (2012).

tailored to ensure skills are developed in line with the demands of competitive markets, by adapting new teaching methods and engaging with the private sector.

37. Among the key entrepreneurship and business skills development programmes offered by United Nations organizations and agencies are the ILO Know About Business training tool[27] and Start and Improve Your Business training package[28] and the Empretec training offered by UNCTAD, as well as the UNIDO toolkit on entrepreneurship development for universities and young and women entrepreneurs. ITC specializes in international market access and e-commerce. The delivery of entrepreneurship training programmes is increasingly managed by the private or non-profit sectors: leading accelerators and co-working spaces providing capacity-building are often managed by companies, and entrepreneurship training courses are regularly run by financial providers such as banks and microfinance institutions. Online platforms provide access to curricula and mentorships, including the UNCTAD Business Schools for Impact project[29] and the Tony Elumelu Foundation.[30]

D. Improving access to finance

38. Improving access to finance, particularly for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, is a key objective in most developing countries, where the traditional banking system is often ill suited for start-ups and such enterprises. As financing entrepreneurial ventures is riskier than financing established businesses, loan guarantees remain the main policy instruments used by Governments to ease access to finance for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises.[31] Measures such as targeted credit lines, direct lending schemes, equity and credit guarantees could be introduced. Many development agencies assist Governments in that regard. Other forms of finance are also evolving that are more appropriate for start-ups. A recent report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) notes that there are alternative modes of financial intermediation to integrate sustainable development into the fabric of the financial system.[32] The UNEP Principles for Sustainable Insurance provide a global sustainability framework and global collaborative initiative pioneering research into what small- and medium-sized enterprises and cities worldwide are doing to become more resilient in response to climate change and how the insurance industry can support such enterprises and cities in assessing climate risks and developing resilience plans.

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[27] The ILO tool, Know About Your Business, has integrated entrepreneurship education as part of its wider entrepreneurship development strategy. The result has been the roll out of nationwide entrepreneurship education programmes using Know About Your Business, which has been mainstreamed into national policies of 18 countries.

[28] In Uganda, results published in 2015 showed that combining entrepreneurship training based on the ILO's Stand and Improve Your Business programme (offered in more than 100 countries with more than 6 million participants over the last 10 years), with loans, led to a 54 per cent increase in profits, and employment increased between 45 per cent and 66 per cent Available from www.ilo.org/siyb.

[29] See business-school-for-imapct.org.

[30] See tonyelumelufoundation.org.

[31] OECD, *Financing SMEs and Entrepreneurs 2016: an OECD Scoreboard* (Paris, 2016).

[32] United Nations Environment Programme, "The financial system we need: aligning the financial system with sustainable development" (Geneva, 2015).

39. An array of crowdfunding, marketplace and peer-to-peer lending and other online alternative finance platforms have emerged, using technological innovations to change the way people, businesses and institutions access and invest money. The availability of those innovations widens the range of financial services specifically targeting excluded and underserved market segments and includes savings, credit, insurance and even investment products.

40. The total funds invested for development totalled $9.85 billion in 2015, and sources indicate that almost one third of that global market is managed through Swiss institutions, mainly microfinance. According to recent reports, the average growth rate anticipated for the global microfinance market in 2016 is 10 to 15 per cent, at an average annual target return of 4.5 per cent, illustrating the attractiveness of this segment for investors.[33]

41. Angel investors play a crucial role in spurring enterprise financing. Associations of angel investors at regional and global levels have secured mentorship and networking. For example, Turkey has approved an angel investment law providing a 75 per cent tax incentive to investors, the highest in the world; the Republic of Korea has increased its tax deduction for angel investment to 50 per cent; Indonesia has adopted a sustainable finance road map to enhance the skills of financial professionals; and Mexico has expanded its financial services in rural areas through direct subsidies and technical assistance.

42. Financial institutions are providing such target groups as women and young people with training in financial literacy. UNCTAD addresses financial inclusion for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises through training materials on accounting and risk coverage that provide advice to regulators in the area of accounting regulations, and by providing technical assistance to government officials with tools such as the accounting development tool, as well as through materials for use by entrepreneurs. UNCTAD assists developing countries and economies in transition in building regulatory institutional and human capacity in accounting in order for small- and medium-sized enterprises to implement best practices.

43. UNIDO has developed an integrated approach combining access to adequate forms of finance for the creation and development of enterprises matched with qualitative pre- and post-creation assistance.[34] Through its computer model for feasibility analysis and reporting programme (COMFAR), UNIDO is providing training for project financial appraisal and financial literacy.

44. Blended finance has become popular, employing the strategic use of development finance and philanthropic funds to mobilize private capital flows to emerging and frontier markets. It offers the opportunity to scale up commercial financing for developing countries and to channel finance towards investments with development impact.[35] The Regional Education Finance Fund for Africa facilitates the sustainable provision of education finance services, supporting secondary, higher and vocational education in high-demand fields. It promotes the development of financial systems in Africa. For example, in South Africa, the Innovations

[33] Philipp Aerni and others, "Swiss investment for a better world: the first market survey on investments for development" (Zurich, Swiss Sustainable Finance, University of Zurich and Symbiotics, 2016).

[34] See http://www.unido.org/youth.html.

[35] The name of the programme is Rural Microfinance Technical Assistance Programme (PATMIR). Available from www.bansefi.gob.mx/Patmir/Pages/default.aspx.

Against Poverty Programme is a risk-sharing mechanism providing matching grants on a competitive basis to innovative businesses with a high potential to reduce poverty, enabling them to scale up and penetrate new markets. In Tunisia, UNIDO is working in partnership with the African Development Bank, the United Nations country team and local public and private sector entities on an innovative form of blended finance to support innovative and growth-oriented businesses. The partnership, Souq At-tanmia, allows young entrepreneurs to leverage small grants as a form of equity to access larger financial resources.

E. Facilitating technology exchanges and innovation

45. Investment in science, technology and innovation is essential for economic development and social progress. Both the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognized the potential of such investment to help achieve development goals. Research and development can foster sustainable development by building greener, more inclusive societies and addressing various aspects of the digital divide. There are national and international efforts concentrating on the design of more inclusive and environmentally friendly science, technology and innovation policies, bringing the benefits of technology and innovation to the poor. For example, UNCTAD has provided countries with guidance in developing or revising their national policies. Its new Innovation Policy Learning Programme has built capacities in science, technology and innovation policies through training and networking (see TD/B/C.II/25).

46. UNEP, with the help of the Global Network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECPnet) is supporting 50 small- and medium-sized enterprises in eight countries to embed sustainability into their business models and value chains. It supports enabling conditions for eco-innovation and promoting green entrepreneurship, focusing on sound chemical management, sustainable tourism, eco-labelling and consumer information, life cycle thinking (for example, product and organizational footprinting) and regional sustainable consumption and production work under the SWITCH-Asia, SWITCH-Med and SWITCH Africa Green initiatives.

47. A local innovation system, which embeds entrepreneurs in local universities and research centres, is key to addressing the emerging challenges of housing, environmentally sound infrastructure, sustainable urban development, and energy production and consumption. The UNESCO Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments (GO→SPIN) is an open access database helping countries to monitor and evaluate their innovation "ecosystems" and compare best practices. UNESCO also recently created a network of centres of excellence in the Arab region to support technology and innovation hubs in the form of science and technology parks.

48. Innovation in agriculture concentrates on social and environmental concerns, focusing on the link between food security and climate change. The increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters requires Governments to adopt new risk-mitigation and resilience measures. Climate change, resilient agriculture and the development of sustainable, yet intensive, agriculture requires innovation.

Promoting extension services, to upgrade farming productivity, have been identified as key, as shown by the following examples:[36]

- UNIDO has developed a training toolkit for entrepreneurs, known as the "Greening your business" approach, which increases knowledge and awareness of energy efficiency, waste management and environmental impact
- The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) youth entrepreneurship award strengthens the interlinkages between innovation and the social and ecological issues created by increasing urbanization
- ILO leads a One-UN project with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNCTAD, UNEP and ITC to "green" the construction industry in Zambia
- The NextGen cassava project in Africa plans to use genomic selection to improve crops
- The C4 rice project is a global endeavour involving biologists in 18 countries to improve rice yields[37]
- Konza Technology City in Kenya has integrated a vision of creating a cluster of knowledge industries within the city into the conception stage of the project (see E/CN.16/2016/2)

49. Entrepreneurship has been enhanced through rapid changes in technology and Internet services. Business-to-business and business-to-customer platforms have grown significantly.[38] National policies and strategies have emerged to help entrepreneurs benefit from e-commerce, while a number of e-mentoring platforms have also been established. Access to finance is facilitated by information and communications technology, on the basis of such innovations as blockchain and mobile money technologies. Information and communications technology-enabled crowdsourcing, crowdfunding and innovation prizes are new ways to collaboratively develop and fund innovations. Modern information and communications technology has been used to improve networking among diaspora communities. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda included the creation of a technology facilitation mechanism to build capacities in technology, including science, technology and innovation.

50. Developing countries have also linked their trade and innovation policies to the development agenda to benefit from the expansion of international production networks. This has boosted trade, particularly in intermediate goods. Some of the most successful developing economies have linked their development efforts to global value chains.[39]

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[36] See *The Least Developed Countries Report 2015: Transforming Rural Economies* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.15.II.D.7).

[37] "The future of agriculture", *The Economist: Technology Quarterly*, 11 June 2016.

[38] UNCTAD, "UNCTAD B2C e-commerce index 2016", technical notes on ICT for development No. 7, available from http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/tn_unctad_ict4d07_en.pdf.

[39] Valentina De Marchi, Elisa Giuliani and Roberta Rabellotti, *Local Innovation and Global Value Chains in Developing Countries* Working Paper Series, No. 2015-022 (Maastricht, the Netherlands, United Nations University-Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Technology, 2016); *World Investment Report 2013: Global Value Chains — Investment and Trade For Development* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.13.II.D.5).

F. Promoting awareness and networking

51. It is crucial to highlight the value of entrepreneurship and its contribution to promoting sustainable development. This involves changing social attitudes and addressing the negative preconceptions about entrepreneurship.

52. Conferences and efforts that highlight the value of entrepreneurship and talents have multiplied, for example:

- Global Entrepreneurship Week is celebrated around the world in 160 countries
- The Global Entrepreneurship Congress gathers thousands of entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, policymakers and other start-up champions
- The Global Entrepreneurship Summit was first hosted by the White House in 2010 and since then has met annually. The seventh Summit, held at Stanford University, was attended by President Barack Obama of the United States
- The Commonwealth Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs — Asia annual summit provides an opportunity for young entrepreneurs to learn from established entrepreneurs
- Global Money Week, initiated by Child and Youth Finance International, promotes greater money awareness among young people

53. Recent initiatives have embedded innovation and sustainability as the main objectives of the entrepreneurship networks, including the following:

- UNCITRAL has continued raising public awareness and supporting community and professionally based institutions in respect of internationally accepted commercial law standards by translating standards into local languages, creating local databases and disseminating information
- The United States Department of State, in collaboration with, among others, Microsoft, DEMO, the United States Agency for International Development and Startup Weekend, launched the Liberalizing Innovation Opportunity Nations (LIONS@FRICA) partnership. DEMO Africa is one of their flagship initiatives and aims to connect African start-ups to the global ecosystem
- The Water Entrepreneur, an initiative of the Eijkelkamp Foundation, is a new global collaborative platform connecting investors and entrepreneurs to provide solutions for safe and affordable drinking water
- The Global Accelerator Network supports accelerators in growing successful start-ups
- The Caribbean Idea Marketplace is a business plan competition encouraging local and diaspora entrepreneurs to forge business partnerships
- Members of the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) in Spain have supported over 415,000 entrepreneurs with business development services[40]

[40] See Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs, "State of the small and growing business sector: 2015 impact report" (2016).

III. Measuring the impact of entrepreneurship on sustainable development

54. Section II considers the need to monitor progress and evaluate the contribution of entrepreneurship policies to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. The very nature of entrepreneurship may make it difficult to measure and compare across countries.

A. Measuring entrepreneurship policies

55. While levels of entrepreneurship have often been measured by indicators such as self-employment rate, business ownership rates or business start-up rates, there is growing recognition that those measures are not sufficient for policymakers. More qualitative measures are also required.[41]

56. The major initiatives for measuring entrepreneurship are the following:

- *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor*: provides harmonized measures of the attitudes, activities and characteristics (that is, aspirations) of individuals who participate in various phases of entrepreneurship to measure differences in the level of entrepreneurship activity between economies across similar economic development level (grouped as factor-driven, efficiency-driven and innovation-driven economies) and geographic locations. The *Monitor* produces an annual index comprised of three sub-indexes capturing the contextual features of entrepreneurship across individual and institutional variables[42]
- OECD-Eurostat Entrepreneurship Indicators Programme: reports on three sets of indicators to measure entrepreneurship: determinants (that is, policy actions), entrepreneurial performance and impact (that is, policy objectives) indicators.[43] OECD proposes five main areas of determinants of entrepreneurship: opportunities, skilled people, resources, regulatory framework and culture
- Index of Systemic Conditions for Dynamic Entrepreneurship (ICSEd-Prodem): developed by Prodem and the Inter-American Development Bank as a tool for professionals in entrepreneurial ecosystems in Latin America to define a benchmark and identify the most relevant factors to close the gap in dynamic enterprises and create high-quality jobs
- World Bank Impact Assessment Framework: a resource for policymakers and regulators to select adequate approaches to evaluate micro-, small- and

[41] José Ernesto Amorós and Niels Bosma, *Global Entrepreneurship Monitor: Global Report 2013 — Fifteen Years of Assessing Entrepreneurship Across the Globe* (Global Entrepreneurship Research Association, 2014).

[42] Zolton Acs and Erkko Autio, "The Global Entrepreneurship and Development Index: a brief explanation" delegate paper for the event "How to make the United Kingdom more entrepreneurial?", London, March 2010. Available from https://workspace.imperial.ac.uk/business-school/Public/JC/GEDI%20delegate%20paper.pdf.

[43] OECD, "A framework for addressing and measuring entrepreneurship", document STD/DOC(2008)2, available from www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?doclanguage=en&cote=std/doc(2008)2.

medium-sized enterprise finance policies and interventions using a set of impact evaluation techniques[44]

- OECD scoreboard on small- and medium-sized enterprise financing: assesses small- and medium-sized enterprise and entrepreneurship finance trends using 13 core indicators to help policymakers evaluate whether their financing needs are being met and to guide the design and evaluation of policy measures over time[31]

57. In addition to the initiatives identified in paragraph 56, the UNCTAD Entrepreneurship Policy Framework provides an approach to and the methodology for assessing entrepreneurship policies in a country, while identifying gaps and monitoring progress over time. It contains a list of 23 indicators for the six areas of the Framework. The Framework provides a guided self-assessment tool combined with active participation of all major national stakeholders. On the basis of the Framework, UNCTAD has developed a user-friendly statistical model and list of indicators to develop scoring in each of its components.[45]

58. Despite the success of the initiatives described above, there is a need for an international consensus and guidance on core indicators for developing country contexts, which would allow policymakers to monitor trends and measure the effectiveness of entrepreneurship policies. OECD, the Kauffman Foundation and UNCTAD have joined forces to develop guidance in this regard.[46]

B. Measuring the impact of entrepreneurship on the Sustainable Development Goals

59. Entrepreneurship is directly referred to in Goals 4 and 8 in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (see table 1). Individual and institutional measures can be used to assess the implementation and success of entrepreneurship policy at the national level, with regard to these two Goals, in which entrepreneurship is specifically mentioned. Table 1 focuses on outcomes and impacts, as activities and outputs are dependent on the hierarchy of objectives established by policymakers at the national level. However, when implementing entrepreneurship policies, countries may follow more comprehensively the methodological approach recommended by the Donor Committee for Enterprise Development. The Committee standard is based on the identification of result chains, making explicit each step in the logic of a programme, from activities to outputs to outcomes to

[44] World Bank, "Impact Assessment Framework: small and medium enterprise finance" (Washington, D.C., World Bank and Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, 2012).

[45] See http://unctad.org/en/Pages/DIAE/Entrepreneurship/Entrepreneurship-Policy-Framework-and-Implementation-Guidance.aspx.

[46] OECD, Kauffman Foundation and UNCTAD, "White paper on measuring entrepreneurship for development" (forthcoming).

impacts.[47] This approach enables policymakers to be explicit about the assumptions that they make, formulate and monitor indicators designed to test those assumptions, assess attribution and broader changes, and use the results for reporting and monitoring. General suggestions to assist policymakers in locating relevant data sources follow each goal.

Table 1
Entrepreneurship and the Sustainable Development Goals: possible indicators of direct contributions at the national level

Sustainable Development Goal	*Target*	
Goal 4 **Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all**	**Target 4.4.** By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	
Measures	**Outcome indicators**	**Impact indicators**
	1. Increase in the number of primary and secondary schools offering entrepreneurship programmes or extracurricular activities (both technical and soft skills development)	1. Decrease in the number of youth not in employment
	2. Increase in the number of teachers and university professors trained in entrepreneurship	2. Increase in the total number of jobs generated by start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises

[47] The following definitions are in line with the *Glossary of Key Terms in Evaluation and Results-Based Management* developed by the Development Assistance Committee Working Party on Aid Evaluation (www.oecd.org/dataoecd/29/21/2754804.pdf). See also "The Donor Committee for Enterprise Development standard for measuring results in private sector development : control points and compliance criteria", version VII, April 2015 (www.enterprise-development.org/page/download?id=1842):

- Activity: actions taken or work performed through which inputs, such as funds, technical assistance and other types of resources are mobilized to produce specific outputs
- Outputs: the products, capital goods and services which result from a development intervention; may also include changes resulting from the intervention which are relevant to the achievement of outcomes
- Outcome: the likely or achieved short-term and medium-term effects of an intervention's outputs
- Impact: positive and negative, primary and secondary long-term effects produced by a development intervention, directly or indirectly, intended or unintended
- Results chain: the causal sequence for a development intervention that stipulates the necessary sequence to achieve desired objectives beginning with inputs, moving through activities and outputs and culminating in outcomes, impacts and feedback.

Sustainable Development Goal	*Target*	
	3. Increase in the number of universities offering entrepreneurship courses or programmes in curricula	3. Growth in the micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprise sector contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) and employment
	4. Increase in the number of private entrepreneurship training courses available	
	5. Increase in equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality entrepreneurship education and training	
	6. Increase in access to entrepreneurship training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples	
Main data source	*National education authority/ ministry*	*National employment data*
Goal 8 **Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**	**Target 8.3.** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services	
	Outcome indicators	**Impact indicators**
	7. Increase number of registered micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises	4. Increase in total number of formal jobs generated by start-ups and micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises
	8. Improved access of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises to microfinance and loans	5. Increase in productivity of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises
	9. Increase in the share of microfinance and small- and medium-sized enterprise loans to women and youth in total microfinance and small- and medium-sized enterprise loans	6. Improved ratios of capitalization in the micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprise sector

Sustainable Development Goal	*Target*	
	10. Increase in employment quality, including formal contracts, improved worker representation and social dialogue, and greater compliance with international labour standards	7. Increase in the participation of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in global value chains
	11. Increase technological upgrading and innovation, including through focus on a high-value added and labour-intensive sectors	8. Increases in micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprise export of goods and services
		9. Decrease in Multidimensional Poverty Index
Main data source	*National Finance Ministry, National Government, National Establishment Survey*	*National Employment Data*

Source: UNCTAD.

60. Measuring the indirect contribution of entrepreneurship policies to the other Sustainable Development Goals is also important. The Sustainable Development Goal clusters identified in section I show how entrepreneurship may contribute to achieving a variety of objectives, such as economic growth and diversification; inclusion and agricultural productivity; and women's economic empowerment and environmental sustainability. Measuring such impacts can help to formulate targeted policies that may promote certain kinds of enterprises, such as high tech start-ups, and activities to facilitate the impact of entrepreneurship on economic growth, structural transformation and diversification. These policies can also focus on specific contexts, such as rural development and increasing agricultural productivity, or on target groups such as women's entrepreneurship or green entrepreneurship, indirectly promoting equality and gender balance or indirectly influencing the production and consumption patterns in society. The indicators suggested in table 2 illustrate how such impacts can be measured.

Table 2
Entrepreneurship and the Sustainable Development Goals: possible indicators of additional contributions at the national level

Theme	*Outcome indicators*	*Impact indicators*
Goals 2, 4, 10 and 16		
Inclusion, equality and agricultural productivity	15. Increase in the number of poor or indigenous women and men employed in micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises	14. Increase in agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers
	16. Improved access of vulnerable groups to land and finance, as well as access to new and growing markets	15. Increase in productivity of non-agricultural micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas
	17. Improved access to finance and technology for agricultural and non-agricultural micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas	16. Improved Gini coefficient and social stability
	18. Changes in quality of regulation as measured by citizen engagement in rulemaking	17. Improved governance indicators
Data source	*National employment data; household and establishment data; World Bank (Global Indicators of Regulatory Governance) as proxy of institutional inclusiveness*	*World Bank data, national statistics, UNDP Multidimensional Poverty Index, sector survey*
Goal 5		
Women's empowerment	19. Increase in women's representation in micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprise ownership, in board membership and in management positions	18. Increase in the number of full-time equivalent jobs for women in the private sector
	20. Improved access for women entrepreneurs to the inputs they require, such as land and finance, as well as access to new and growing markets	19. Increase in the productivity of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises owned and managed by women

Theme	*Outcome indicators*	*Impact indicators*
	21. Development of financial service products targeting women entrepreneurs, including green financing initiatives targeting women	20. Improved capacity of women to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities
Data source	*OECD Social Institutions and Gender Index; small- and medium-sized enterprise surveys*	*Banking surveys; national employment data*
Goals 7, 12, 13 and 14		
Environmental sustainability	22. Improvements in efficient energy use, including use of renewable energy among small- and medium-sized enterprises	21. Increase in the number of start-ups in eco-sectors (e.g., ecotourism, renewable energy)
	23. Increased small- and medium-sized enterprise compliance with environmental laws and regulations	22. Increase in productivity of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises active in eco-sectors
	24. Reduced waste produced by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises	23. Increase in renewable energy produced and used by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises
	25. Increase in area of agricultural ecosystems under sustainable management	24. Increase in ratio of GDP to carbon dioxide emissions of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises
Data source	*FAO case studies; micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprise surveys*	*National statistics; industrial surveys; small- and medium-sized enterprise surveys; industry surveys*

Source: UNCTAD.

61. For all of the above-mentioned categories of sustainability, it is important to collect data, develop and apply indicators along the result chain from activities to impact. The informal agricultural sector is the biggest employer in the world, yet data on the majority of the developing economies is lacking. More disaggregated data identifying gender and age in rural communities are needed. Data on innovation should distinguish between green innovation and the rest. Data on alternative energy production and consumption are also valuable. To determine the impact of entrepreneurship policy on the Goals related to environmental sustainability, this critical mass of information has to distinguish large businesses from micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

62. Significant progress in addressing entrepreneurial strategies and frameworks has taken place since the adoption of General Assembly resolutions 67/202 and 69/210. Mainstreaming entrepreneurship in national and international development plans and strategies is leading to a new scenario in which the Sustainable Development Goals and entrepreneurship promotion are inextricably linked.

63. Best practices show that an active role for all stakeholders is required, including Governments and their institutions as well as other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. A holistic approach is needed.

64. Governments should continue to create an environment more conducive to business for entrepreneurs by improving the quality of legislation, enforcement and information. The use of information and communications technology has made it easier to start new enterprises, reducing administrative burdens by simplifying procedures. Entrepreneur networks have consolidated, and better links have been forged between entrepreneurship and innovation.

65. Lack of access to finance is still the top constraint facing entrepreneurs. Policies, programmes and services should develop innovative financing mechanisms, strengthen institutions and improve creditor and borrower procedures. Policies should reflect the heterogeneity of the enterprise community, their different support needs and development stages. Specific policies should target, inter alia, women, youth and vulnerable groups. Policymakers should build entrepreneurship ecosystems for the 2030 Agenda. They could include the creation of a policy toolbox to mobilize investment, sustainable business models and pilot projects, starting small and expanding when solutions have been tested and found successful.

66. Entrepreneurs can develop effective and simple solutions in the areas of utility services, education, health care, environment and pro-poor business models. While there is still a need to accelerate the implementation of communication and power infrastructures in many developing countries, along with advances in information and communications technology, there is a growing opportunity to harness the potential of new businesses, improve the productivity of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises and develop the networks and sale channels they need, including e-commerce.

67. Robust, comprehensive and timely data and indicators, such as those proposed in tables 1 and 2, are important for policy formulation and review. The practice of more rigorous monitoring and measurement of results should be used to determine the impact of entrepreneurship policies. This may require the use of control groups and the identification of success and failures. There is a need for quantitative and qualitative output and impact assessment and the sharing of good practices in entrepreneurship, including indicators to measure the contribution of entrepreneurship to the Sustainable Development Goals. More information is also needed to guide reforms in business registration, trade and the labour market.

68. The High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, as the central platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, should include discussions on entrepreneurship to advance intergovernmental guidance for implementing entrepreneurial strategies that are better and have a greater impact.